

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 SP-02 PRS-01 INRE-00 /043 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/SE:JHMORTON:VSS

APPROVED BY EUR:LBLAINGEN

P:FWISNER

S/S:FORTIZ

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 020648

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CY, TU

SUBJECT: REPORT OF PLAN TO SETTLE VAROSHA

1. AMBASSADOR DIMITRIOU TELEPHONED UNDER SECRETARY SISCO AND DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY LAINGEN JANUARY 27 TO REPORT "VERY DISTURBING DEVELOPMENTS" RELATING TO AN ALLEGED PLAN BY TURKISH AUTHORITIES TO BEGIN SETTLING FAMAGUSTA AND VAROSHA. DIMITRIOU'S PROTEST FOLLOWED A TELEPHONE DISCUSSION HE HAD EARLIER IN DAY WITH FOREIGN MINISTER CHRISTOPHIDES WHO STATED THAT THE INFORMATION CAME FROM RELIABLE SOURCES. CHRISTOPHIDES, DIMITRIOU EMPHASIZED, HAD DOUBLE-CHECKED THE SOURCE AND WAS CONVINCED OF THE AUTHENTICITY OF THE REPORT.

2. DIMITRIOU STATED THAT THIS LATEST MOVE MUST BE SEEN AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF THE MASS MOVEMENT OF MAINLANDERS INTO THE NORTH OF CYPRUS. DIMITRIOU CITED AN ASSOCIATED PRESS TICKER ITEM WHICH INDICATED CHRISTOPHIDES HAD MADE A STRONG STATEMENT CONDEMNING THESE ACTIONS.HIS
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GOVERNMENT WOULD ALSO BE MAKING A STRONG PROTEST TO THE

UNITED NATIONS.

3. APPARENTLY ON HIS OWN INITIATIVE, DIMITRIOU SAID THAT THIS DEVELOPMENT COULD AFFECT THE RESUMPTION OF THE INTER-

COMMUNAL TALKS.

4. DIMITRIOU WAS ADVISED THAT WE WOULD SHARE GOC CONCERN IF ATTEMPT WERE MADE TO SETTLE FAMAGUSTA AND VAROSHA, BUT THAT, AT THE MOMENT, WE DID NOT HAVE REPORTS TO SUBSTANTIATE THE ALLEGATION. WE WOULD SEEK INFORMATION IN BOTH NICOSIA AND ANKARA AND WOULD MAKE KNOWN OUR CONCERN IF REPORTS WERE SUBSTANTIATED. BOTH SISCO AND LAINGEN EMPHASIZED THAT WE ATTACH GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE EARLY RESUMPTION OF THE TALKS AND WE HOPED ALL PARTIES WOULD AVOID ANY ACTION WHICH WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT MOVEMENT BACK TO THE NEGOTIATING TABLE.

5. EMBASSY ANKARA AND NICOSIA SHOULD APPROACH GOVERNMENT AT APPROPRIATE LEVEL AND REPORT ANY INFORMATION IT CAN ASCERTAIN .

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FEDERATION, REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, MILITARY OCCUPIED AREAS, PARTITION, POPULATION DISTRIBUTION, ALLEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: powellba
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE020648
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JHMORTON:VSS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760031-0592
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760113/aaaaakxd.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: powellba
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 APR 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <21 OCT 2004 by powellba>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REPORT OF PLAN TO SETTLE VAROSHA
TAGS: PFOR, CY, TU
To: ANKARA NICOSIA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006